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NYT. 36 HOURS. LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

Barbara Ireland

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Flexicover, clothbound, with ribbon bookmarks

cm 16,8 x 24,0, 296 pp.

English

9783836544252

20.00€

Availability In Stock

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## NYT. 36 HOURS. LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

### ¡Buen viaje!

#### **Dream weekends and practical travel itineraries in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Covering a span of terrain stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean across the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, Latin America and the Caribbean harbor a wealth of enticing destinations. Stylishly written and carefully researched, this updated and expanded collection of the *New York Times*' popular 36 Hours feature offers you 60 well-crafted itineraries for quick but memorable trips, accompanied by hundreds of color photographs to fire your imagination. Explore the crystal clear waters of the Bahamas; try your hand at surfing in Costa Rica, tango in Buenos Aires; discover frenetic megacities, ancient ruins, tranquil beaches, and tropical rainforests...from the expected (the cloud forest in Costa Rica, snorkeling in the Cayman Islands, urban beach culture at Ipanema) to the unexpected (a concert hall in Trinidad for steel-band music, the Colombian walled city of Cartagena, an Antiguan peak named for Barack Obama)—it's all here in this handsomely designed and illustrated book.

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#### **The editor:**

**Barbara Ireland**, a writer and editor based in western New York State, is a former deputy travel editor and deputy Op-Ed page editor at *The New York Times*. While on the *Times* staff, she commissioned and edited many "36 Hours" columns and wrote a few herself. She is a graduate of Cornell University and was a John S. Knight journalism fellow at Stanford University.

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## U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS



### St. John

In a Caribbean increasingly defined by development and high prices, much of St. John remains an exception. It does have expensive, busy places, like Caneel Bay and the Mission, but it also has compounds with well-equipped and comfortable tents and cottages. There are only a few roads, and most wind up at one or another of the island's gorgeous white-sand beaches, joined by the tropical forests of Virgin Islands National Park, which covers more than half the island. Thousands more acres of the surrounding waters — inherited in 1950 by Christopher Columbus, who christened the Virgin Islands — have been declared a national monument.

—BY JON ROSE AND KENNY PLUMP

#### FRIDAY

**1 Your Ship Comes In** 9 a.m.  
The ferry bringing you to St. John leaves St. Thomas, home to the nearest airport, arrives at Cruz Bay. This is also the usual spot for getting acquainted with St. John, which has a year-round population of just 5,000 people. Stroll around **Wharfedale Village**, the small commercial area near the pier, and check out the shops. It's not too soon to pick up a sunscreen.

**2 Island Rhythms** 4 p.m.  
Settle into paradise with happy hour at **Joe's Rum Bar** (1-340-775-6280, joe@joesbar.com). The bar and the adjacent Cruz Bay Pizza Shop are in Wharfedale Village, but the Virgin Islands Pale Ale comes with free views of the harbor. Try a mojito, and as the sun goes down and the boats come and go, start getting used to island time.

**3 Seafood Soiree** 7:30 p.m.  
At **Woody's Seafood Soiree** (a block from the pier in Cruz Bay, 1-340-775-8325, woody@seafood.com, \$5), people spill out into the street as they gather to kick off a night on the town. The coach letters and crew-crested scullings are great starters, and the seafood platter of grilled fish, shrimp, and scallops goes well with the Jersey Bullseye tunes and the dancing servers. If this place is too crowded, head to the nearby **Beach Bar** (1-340-777-6229, beach@stjohn.com) for milkshakes and live

music. Have a nightcap next to the still waters and the moonlight shining off the bay.

#### SATURDAY

**4 North Beach** 9:30 a.m.  
Pick up fruit or pastries and bottled water, and at the west end of Wharfedale Village, under a shade tree in front of Linn Key Watersports (divingkey.com), find **Nash's Little Ark** (1-340-492-8633). Rent one of the small yellow craft and motor sail through the filled sailboats in Cruz Bay toward the other apartment bays — Caneel, Rockwood, Trask, Cinnamon; there are dozens of coves, cays, and beaches. In 1952 the financier and conservationist Laurence S. Rockefeller came to St. John on a sailing trip and fell in love with the place. He bought thousands of acres of land to preserve it from development. He built a small, swanky resort, a sort of eco-tourism prototype, at an old plantation at Caneel Bay. But he donated most of his purchase to the U.S. National Park

**OFFSHORE** Trunk Bay in the Virgin Islands National Park, which occupies more than half of St. John.

**BELOW** A school of fish surrounds a pair of snorkelers in the warm, clear waters of Trunk Bay.



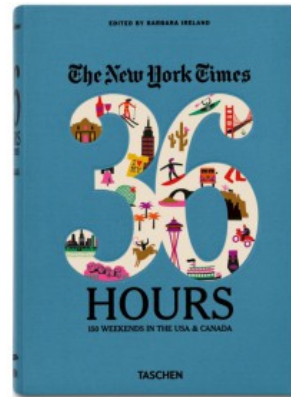
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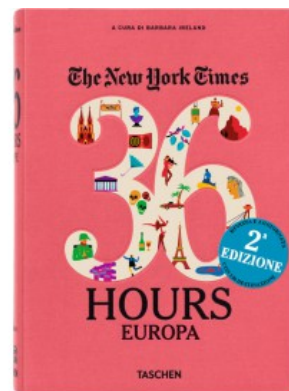
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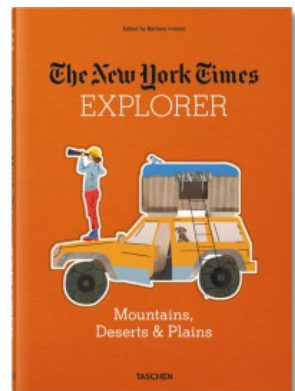
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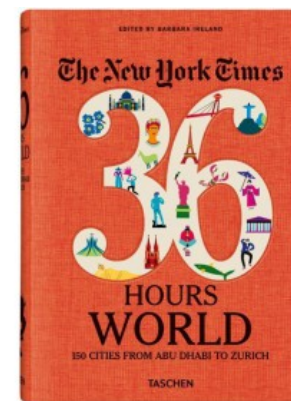
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